

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

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R 291108Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8820

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

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E O 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, CD

SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTER PRESENT DEMARCHE ON US PRESS TREATMENT
CHADIAN TRIBAL INITIATION; STATES DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS TO
RESUMED WITH BONN

1. FOREIGN MINISTER DORALTA TELEPHONED CHARGE AT HOME AT 1845
HOURS LOCAL ON 27 NOVEMBER TO REQUEST THAT CHARGE MEET WITH HIM
AT MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN TWENTY MINUTES TIME. FOREIGN
MINISTER ARRIVED AT DESERTED MINISTRY ABOUT TEN MINUTES AFTER
CHARGE, AND AFTER BRIEF EXCHANGE OF PLEASANTRIES STATED THAT HE
WISHED CHARGE AND AMERICAN GOVERNMENT TO BE AWARE OF CONCERN
OF GOC ABOUT ARTICLES IN AMERICAN PRESS SUCH AS TIME, NEWSWEEK,
NEW YORK TIMES, ETC., WHICH HIGHLY CRITICAL OF CHADIAN TRIBAL
INITIATION CEREMONIES (YONDOH). THE GOC, FOREIGN MINISTER
CONTINUED, FULLY APPRECIATED THAT PRESS IN UNITED STATES BOTH
PRIVATE AND INDEPEADENT, BUT NONETHELESS WISHED TO ENSURE ITS
CONCERN KNOWN TO USG. GOC WISHED HAVE GOOD RELATIONS WITH ALL
COUNTRIES, DORALTA SAID, AND IT HAS BEEN DECIDED FOR EXAMPLE
TO RE-ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH FEDERAL REPUBLIC
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GERMANY.

2. CHARGE, AFTER CONGRATULATING MINISTER OF DECISION REESTABLISH RELATIONS BONN, REPLIED THAT HE PLEASED THAT GOC APPRECIATES INDEPENDENCE PRIVATE PRESS IN US, AS AMERICAN GOVERNMENT CANNOT OF COURSE ACCEPT ANY RESPONSIBILITY WHATSOEVER FOR VIEWS INDIVIDUAL AMERICAN JOURNALISTS OR THEIR PAPERS. CHARGE WOULD REPORT GOC CONCERN TO DEPARTMENT. CHARGE THEN STATED THAT HE HAD READ ESSENTIALLY SIMILAR ARTICLES ABOUT YONDON IN PRESS OF OTHER NATIONS AND ENQUIRED WHETHER HE COULD THEREFORE PRESUME THAT FOREIGN MINISTER MAKING SIMILAR DEMARCHES TO OTHER DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVES. FOREIGN MINISTER SEEMED SOMEWHAT STARTLED AND REPLIED ONLY THAT HE HAD BEEN UNABLE TO REACH FRENCH CHARGE. TEN MINUTE MEETING CONCLUDED WITH BRIEF DISCUSSION PLANS FOR WELCOMING AMBASSADOR LITTLE AND APOLOGY (BUT NO EXPLANATION) FOR URGENT SUMMONS AT INCONVENIENT TIME.

3. COMMENT: DEMARCHE WAS OBVIOUSLY NOT DORALTA'S IDEA. HE WAS SLIGHTLY ILL AT EASE AND PERHAPS MILDLY EMBARRASSED. PRESUMABLY HE ACTING ON DIRECT INSTRUCTIONS PRESIDENT TOMBALBAYE WHO HAD RETURNED FROM TRIP ABROAD PREVIOUS AFTERNOON DURING WHICH NEGATIVE YONDOH ARTICLES IN FRENCH PRESS QUOTING TIME AMONG OTHERS PROBABLY SIGNIFICANT IRRITANT. IT MAY ALSO HAVE BEEN GOC DESIRE MAKE DEMARCHE TO CHARGE BEFORE SCHEDULED ARRIVAL NEXT DAY OF AMBASSADOR LITTLE, IN ORDER AVOID BEGINNING RELATIONS WITH NEW AMBASSADOR ON LESS THAN PLEASANT NOTE.
LITTLE

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